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details. The reader is not left to lose his way among a bewildering array of traps, vents, and fixtures of every possible variety of style and shape. The writer addresses these chapters, not to plumbers, architects, or engineers, but, as he says, to "the limited class who are willing to learn, and with whom a promising suggestion becomes a fruitful germ; to the few who will agree with their teachings; and to the more who will take their propositions into earnest consideration, without the intention, and often without the result, of agreeing with them."

If the wise counsel offered in this volume were generally complied with, diphtheria, typhoid, and other filth-diseases would undoubtedly be reduced to a minimum, and the death-rate would show a corresponding improvement.

NOTES AND NEWS.

If the air carries infectious germs, it certainly would be well to filter it before inhaling. We reproduce from *Science et nature* a cut showing a French physician of the time of the pestilence of Marseilles (1720-21) on his round of visits. He is incased in an armor consisting of a short morocco gown, a helmet of the same material, and a nose stuffed with aromatics, which, notwithstanding its being a doctor's nose, would prove an enlivening feature at a carnival. Did the doctors touch their patients only with the end of a stick? The illustration seems to indicate as much.

—The conductor of the Cartographic institute, Hamburg, Herr L. Friedrichsen, writes thus concerning the limits of the German possessions in West Africa: "The Mahin district on the Gulf of Benin, between Lagos and the mouth of the Niger, settled by the Hamburg firm of G. L. Gaiser, has not yet been placed under German protection. The coast from Jaboo to Old Calabar will, in my opinion, be in future regarded as under British protection, but has not hitherto been officially placed under any European power. The frontier of the German Cameroon begins with the Ethiopian cataract on the Great

River lying from there in a south-westerly direction, to the sources of the Rio del Rey, following the right bank of this river to the coast, then the coast-line in a south-easterly direction to the river Behuwe, excluding the town and neighborhood of Victoria as British, as well as the island of Malimba. The latter, as well as the whole coast from the river Behuwe to Gumbegumbe, is not described by me in the commissions of foreign officials as without a ruler, but as a tract on which the actual raising of the German flag is yet the subject of diplomatic treaty. The German protectorate in south-west Africa begins with 18° south latitude, not with Cape Frio."

—Prior to 1850, there were no effectual laws in England to regulate the number of hours of work per day for children and women: consequently they were in many places obliged to work from fifteen to sixteen hours daily. Certain laws had been passed, but they were so loosely drawn up that they were easily evaded. After 1850, practical laws were passed at frequent intervals, to protect the people in various kinds of industry, and ten hours and a half were made the extreme limit of work. A. Ollendorff has studied the mortality statistics of England for a series of years before and after 1850, and he finds that the mortality of women and children in manufacturing towns has notably diminished since these protective laws came in force.

—The *Oil trade review* reports that rich petroleum grounds have been found at Deli, on the east coast of Sumatra. After experimen-

tal borings, a well was found at a depth of thirty metres, which yields about three hundred and sixty gallons in an hour. When the last layer of earth was pierced, the oil rose in a strong volume to a height of two metres out of the bore.

—Reichenberg's system of employing the same wire for telegraphing and for the use of the telephone simultaneously, has been tried with great success between Toledo and Madrid.

—A committee has been formed in Stendal to put up a monument of the late Dr. Gustav Nachtigall, the African explorer and general consul so recently dead.



A FRENCH DOCTOR OF THE OLD SCHOOL.